

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Kindly cancel claim 12 without prejudice.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A programmable safety apparatus for use with an audio device, the audio device having an output circuit connected ~~for controlling a signal~~ to a means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio wherein the output circuit controls the audio volume, the safety apparatus comprising:

a) a detector circuit for detecting the presence of, and analyzing the type of, a plurality of pre-determined ~~sound~~ sounds;

b) ~~a mute~~ an audio-control circuit connected to the detector circuit and cooperative with the audio device for controlling the output circuit and ~~hereby permitting the mute circuit in turn~~ to control said ~~signal to~~ audio volume of the means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio.

2. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio is a head phone.

3. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio is a speaker.

4. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~mute~~ audio-control circuit ~~turns off the signal to mutes~~ said means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio when at least one of said pre-determined sounds is detected.

5. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~mute~~ audio-control circuit lowers the audio volume ~~signal thereby reducing the sound output of~~ said means for outputting ~~sound~~ audio.

6. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of said predetermined ~~sound~~ sounds detected by said detector circuit is an emergency (police/ambulance) siren.

7. (Currently Amended) The programmable safety apparatus of claim 1 having further comprising input means to allow ~~the~~ a user to modify program the detector circuit for responding to different noises and sounds.

8. (Currently Amended) A portable safety apparatus for use by a disabled person (~~e.g., hearing impaired~~), the safety apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit for detecting the presence of and analyzing the types of a plurality of pre-determined ~~sound~~ sounds;

a notice circuit connected to said detector circuit, ~~and useable by the disabled person to~~ provide a different output to notify said disabled person depending on the type of the presence of a pre-determined sound detected.

9. (Currently Amended) The portable safety apparatus of claim 8 having input means to allow the customization of the notice circuit for modifying the types of notice (mute, visual, tactile) given to the person.

10. (Currently Amended) The portable safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said safety apparatus is wearable by the disabled person.

11. (Currently Amended) The portable safety apparatus if of claim ~~8~~ 10 wherein said safety apparatus includes a chain and a means for hanging said safety apparatus from the neck of said disabled person.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The portable safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said notice circuit provides a tactile warning (e.g., vibration) to the disabled person.

14. (Currently Amended) The portable safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein one of said pre-determined ~~sound~~ sounds is a siren.

15. (New) The portable safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said notice circuit provides a visual warning (e.g., light) to the disabled person.

16. (New) The portable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said detector circuit distinguishes the types of sounds based on the loudness of said sound.

17. (New) The portable safety apparatus of claim 16 wherein said detector circuit distinguishes the types of sounds based on the frequency of said sound.

18. (New) The portable safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said detector circuit distinguishes the types of sounds based on the frequency of said sound.